

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

BIOVAIL LABORATORIES)	
INTERNATIONAL SRL)	
a corporation of Barbados,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	C.A. No. 05-586-KAJ
v.)	(consolidated case)
)	
ANDRX PHARMACEUTICALS, LLC)	
and ANDRX CORPORATION)	
)	
Defendants.)	

**REQUEST FOR INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE
LETTER ROGATORY**

To the Court of First Instance of Brussels, French Section, or to any appropriate Judicial Authority of Belgium:

The United States District Court for the District of Delaware presents its compliments to you and requests international judicial assistance to obtain evidence to be used in a civil proceeding before this Court in the above captioned matter. A trial on this matter is scheduled at present for April 9, 2007 in Wilmington, Delaware, United States.

WHEREAS, a proceeding is pending in the United States District Court for District of Delaware located in the City of Wilmington, State of Delaware, United States of America, between the plaintiff Biovail Laboratories International SRL (“Biovail”), a Barbados Corporation having a place of business at Carolina, Barbados, and the defendants Andrx Pharmaceuticals LLC and Andrx Corporation (collectively “Andrx”), both of which are located at 4955 Orange Drive, Davie, Florida, 33314. Plaintiff Biovail is represented by Dominick Conde, Esq., Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York, USA 10112. Defendant Andrx is represented

in the United States by Steven A Maddox, Esq., Foley & Lardner LLP, 3000 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., USA, 20007 and in Belgium by Bruno Vandermeulen, member of the Brussels bar, with offices at 1040 Brussels (Belgium) Avenue d'Auderghem 22-28 (Tel: +32/2/282.60.00 – e-mail: bruno.vandermeulen@twobirds.com).

WHEREAS, plaintiff Biovail has charged Andrx with infringement of United States Patent No. 5,529,791 (“the ’791 patent”), attached hereto as Exhibit 1. Biovail asserts that as an exclusive licensee of the ’791 patent, it has the right to bring suit for infringement of this ’791 patent. The Belgian Court has jurisdiction of the parties and the power to compel witnesses who have their residence in Belgium to produce documents and provide testimony.

WHEREAS, Defendant Andrx has alleged, *inter alia*, that the ’791 patent is invalid because it fails to meet the conditions of patentability under Title 35 of the U.S. Code and/or because it is invalid over prior art.

WHEREAS, Mr. Philippe Baudier (the “Witness”), a resident of the City of Brussels, Belgium is named as an inventor of the ’791 patent at issue. Mr. Baudier’s last known address is as follows:

Mr. Philippe Baudier
338 rue Engeland
1180 Brussels, Belgium

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2006, plaintiff Biovail in response to discovery requests properly served in this action identified Mr. Baudier as a person who is knowledgeable regarding the conception and reduction to practice of the inventions of the ’791 patent.

WHEREAS, Andrx has represented that the testimony of Mr. Baudier as well as the production of documents believed to be in his possession would, at trial, aid in the proof of the invalidity of the '791 patent. In the United States, a patent is granted to the first inventor of an invention. When a patent is asserted in an infringement action and the accused infringer questions the validity of the patent, it is ordinary for the accused infringer to seek the deposition of the named inventors.

WHEREAS, this Court is authorized by Rule 28(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1781 and 1782 to issue this Letter Rogatory to the appropriate judicial authority in Brussels, Belgium, requesting the assistance in this matter.

WHEREAS, the trial of this matter is scheduled to commence on April 9, 2007, and discovery is scheduled to be completed by September 5, 2006; for case management and trial preparation purposes; and it is in the interest of justice that the Witness sought be required to produce the documents and submit to oral deposition at the earliest possible date; and

WE THEREFORE REQUEST, that in the interest of justice, you cause the Witness, who resides within your jurisdiction, to produce to Belgian counsel for defendant Andrx, Mr. Bruno Vandermeulen at 1040 Brussels (Belgium) Avenue d'Auderghem 22-28 (Tel: +32/2/282.60.00 – e-mail: bruno.vandermeulen@twobirds.com), on or before September 1, 2006, or such other date to be determined by you, for inspection and copying, documents within his possession, custody or control, as enumerated on Annex A hereto.

IT IS FURTHER REQUESTED, also in the interest of justice, that you issue an order by your proper and usual process summoning the Witness to appear in his individual and professional capacity, before the Court of First Instance of Brussels, French section or any other appropriate Judicial Authority of Belgium, on or before September 1, 2006, or such other date to be determined by you, to give testimony under oath by question and answers upon oral deposition, on the questions as enumerated in Annex B.

IT IS FINALLY REQUESTED that you authorize the recording of the witness hearing in application of article 952 of the Belgian Judicial Code, and order that the written record of the testimony, with all exhibits marked and attested, to be returned to this Court, through the nearest United States consular officer under cover, duly sealed and addressed to the Clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, United States of America.

This Court expresses its appreciation to you for your courtesy and assistance in this matter and states that, pursuant to the authority of 28 U.S.C. § 1782, it shall be ready and willing to do the same for you in a similar matter when required.

BY THE COURT:

Kent A. Jordan
United States District Court Judge

Peter D. Dalleo, Clerk of Court

By: _____

Seal of the
United States District Court
for the District of Delaware

ANNEX A

Please provide documents to Andrx's Belgium Counsel:

Mr. Bruno Vandermeulen at 1040 Brussels (Belgium) Avenue d'Auderghem 22-28 (Tel: +32/2/282.60.00 – e-mail: bruno.vandermeulen@twobirds.com)

1. Any documents in your possession before and until the date of application of the '791 patent or the corresponding European patent EP 0591 424 B1 and that demonstrate your work with diltiazem, or any salts thereof, while employed by Galephar P.R., Inc.
2. Any documents in your possession before and until the date of application of the '791 patent or the corresponding European patent EP 0591 424 B1 and that demonstrate your contribution on any purported inventions described and/or claimed in the '791 patent or the corresponding European patent EP 0591 424 B1, including, without limitation, notebooks, memoranda, notes, and/or meeting minutes.
3. Any documents in your possession before and until the date of application of the '791 patent or the corresponding European patent EP 0591 424 B1 and that demonstrate communications between you and Mr. Arthur M. DeBoeck relating to any purported inventions described and/or claimed in the '791 patent or the corresponding European patent EP 0591 424 B1.
4. Any documents in your possession demonstrating Biovail's licensing of the '791 patent or the corresponding European patent EP 0591 424 B1.

ANNEX B

Introductory Questions:

1. Please state your name and address.
2. Please describe your educational background.
3. Please describe your employment history, identifying the name of any companies for whom you have worked, the dates of your employment with each company, and the position(s) you held with each company.

Diltiazem Work:

4. While employed by Galephar, did you perform any work relating to diltiazem or any salts thereof?
5. If the answer to the preceding question is yes, please respond to the following questions:
 - a. Please describe the work you performed relating to diltiazem or any salts thereof.
 - b. Whose idea was it to perform this work relating to diltiazem or any salts thereof.
 - c. What were your contributions to the work at Galephar on diltiazem or salts thereof?
 - d. Did you work with anyone else at Galephar relating to diltiazem or any salts thereof?
 - e. If so, please identify those individuals by name.
 - f. What were each of those individuals' contributions to the work at Galephar relating to diltiazem or any salts thereof?

6. Did you supervise the work of anyone at Galephar relating to diltiazem or any salts thereof?
7. If the answer to Question 6 is yes, please respond to the following questions:
 - a. Whose work at Galephar did you supervise relating to diltiazem or any salts thereof?
 - b. What work were those individuals performing relating to diltiazem or any salts thereof?
 - c. What was the purpose of the work of those individuals at Galephar relating to diltiazem or any salts thereof?

The '791 Patent:

8. Were you involved in the decision to file the patent applications that ultimately led to the '791 patent or the corresponding European patent EP 0591 424 B1?
9. If the answer to the preceding question is yes, please respond to the following questions:
 - a. Please describe your involvement in the decision to file the patent applications that ultimately led to the '791 patent or the corresponding European patent EP 0591 424 B1.
 - b. Please identify what specific aspects or technical features of your invention you considered to be patentable.
10. Were you involved in the prosecution of the patent applications that ultimately led to the '791 patent or the corresponding European patent EP 0591 424 B1?

11. If the answer to the preceding question is yes, please describe your involvement in the prosecution of the patent applications that ultimately led to the '791 patent or the corresponding European patent EP 0591 424 B1.
12. Prior to the filing of the patent application that ultimately led to the issuance of the '791 patent, please identify each diltiazem product of which you were aware.
13. Prior to the filing of the patent application that ultimately led to the issuance of the '791 patent, please describe all diltiazem literature of which you were aware.
14. Prior to the filing of the patent application that ultimately led to the issuance of the '791 patent, please describe all diltiazem patents or patent applications of which you were aware.
15. Prior to filing the patent application that ultimately led to the issuance of the '791 patent, did you conduct (or have conducted on your behalf) any patent or literature search for diltiazem?
16. If the answer to the previous question is yes, please respond to the following questions:
 - a. Please describe the patent or literature search(es) you conducted or had conducted on your behalf for diltiazem.
 - b. Please describe the results of the patent or literature search(es) you conducted or had conducted on your behalf for diltiazem.

The Purported Inventions Described And/Or Claimed In The '791 Patent:

17. When was the work described and/or claimed in the '791 patent or the corresponding European patent EP 0591 424 B1 performed?

18. Whose idea was it at Galephar to work on an extended release galenical formulation including one or more pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diltiazem?
19. Did you make any contribution to the idea at Galephar to work on an extended release galenical formulation including one or more pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diltiazem?
20. If the answer to the preceding question is yes, please describe your contribution.
21. What work was done at Galephar prior to June 26, 1991, relating to an extended release galenical formulation including one or more pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diltiazem?
22. What was your role in that work, if any?
23. Whose idea was it at Galephar to use beads containing one or more salts of diltiazem and wetting agent in admixture?
24. Did you make any contribution to the idea at Galephar to use beads containing one or more salts of diltiazem and wetting agent in admixture?
25. If the answer to the preceding question is yes, please describe your contribution.
26. What work was done at Galephar prior to June 26, 1991, relating to beads containing one or more salts of diltiazem and wetting agent in admixture?
27. What was your role in that work, if any?
28. Whose idea was it at Galephar to use beads containing one or more salts of diltiazem and wetting agent in admixture to maintain the solubility of the diltiazem in each bead?

29. Did you make any contribution to the idea at Galephar to use beads containing one or more salts of diltiazem and wetting agent in admixture to maintain the solubility of the diltiazem in each bead?
30. If the answer to the preceding question is yes, please describe your contribution.
31. What work was done at Galephar prior to June 26, 1991, relating to beads containing one or more salts of diltiazem and wetting agent in admixture to maintain the solubility of the diltiazem in each bead?
32. What was your role in that work, if any?
33. Whose idea was it at Galephar to use beads containing one or more salts of diltiazem and wetting agent in admixture to maintain the solubility of the diltiazem in each bead, ensuring the solubility of the diltiazem is unaffected by the pH of the gastrointestinal tract or other conditions which the composition will meet therein?
34. Did you make any contribution to the idea at Galephar to use beads containing one or more salts of diltiazem and wetting agent in admixture to maintain the solubility of the diltiazem in each bead, ensuring the solubility of the diltiazem is unaffected by the pH of the gastrointestinal tract or other conditions which the composition will meet therein?
35. If the answer to the preceding question is yes, please describe your contribution.
36. What work was done at Galephar prior to June 26, 1991, relating to beads containing one or more salts of diltiazem and wetting agent in admixture to maintain the solubility of the diltiazem in each bead, ensuring the solubility of the

diltiazem is unaffected by the pH of the gastrointestinal tract or other conditions which the composition will meet therein?

37. What was your role in that work, if any?
38. What testing was done at or on behalf of Galephar prior to June 26, 1991 to determine that the solubility of the diltiazem is unaffected by the pH of the gastrointestinal tract or other conditions which the composition will meet therein?

Licensing '791 Patent to Biovail:

39. Were you involved in any way in the licensing of the '791 patent or the corresponding European patent EP 0591 424 B1 by Biovail from Galephar?
40. If the answer to the preceding question is yes, please describe your involvement in the licensing.

EXHIBIT 1



US05529791A

United States Patent

[19]

Deboeck et al.

[11] Patent Number: 5,529,791

[45] Date of Patent: Jun. 25, 1996

[54] EXTENDED RELEASE FORM OF
DILTIAZEM[58] Field of Search 424/457, 458,
424/462, 490, 493, 497, 498, 499, 494[75] Inventors: Arthur M. Deboeck, Gurabo, Puerto
Rico; Philippe R. Baudier, Waterloo,
Belgium

[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,112,621 5/1992 Stevens et al. 424/497
5,275,824 1/1994 Carli et al. 424/490[73] Assignee: Galephar P.R., Inc., Ltd., Carolina,
Puerto Rico

Primary Examiner—Thurman K. Page

Assistant Examiner—James M. Spear

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Oblon, Spivak, McClelland,
Maier & Neustadt

[21] Appl. No.: 311,722

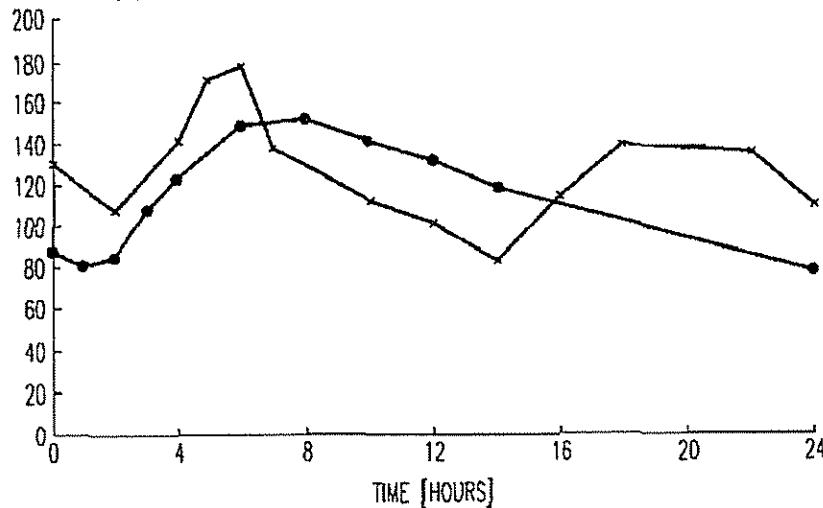
[57] ABSTRACT

[22] Filed: Sep. 23, 1994

An extended-release galenical form of Diltiazem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises beads containing said Diltiazem or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient and a wetting agent, said beads being coated with a microporous membrane comprising at least a water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer or copolymer and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

4 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

DILTIAZEM PLASMA [ng/ml]



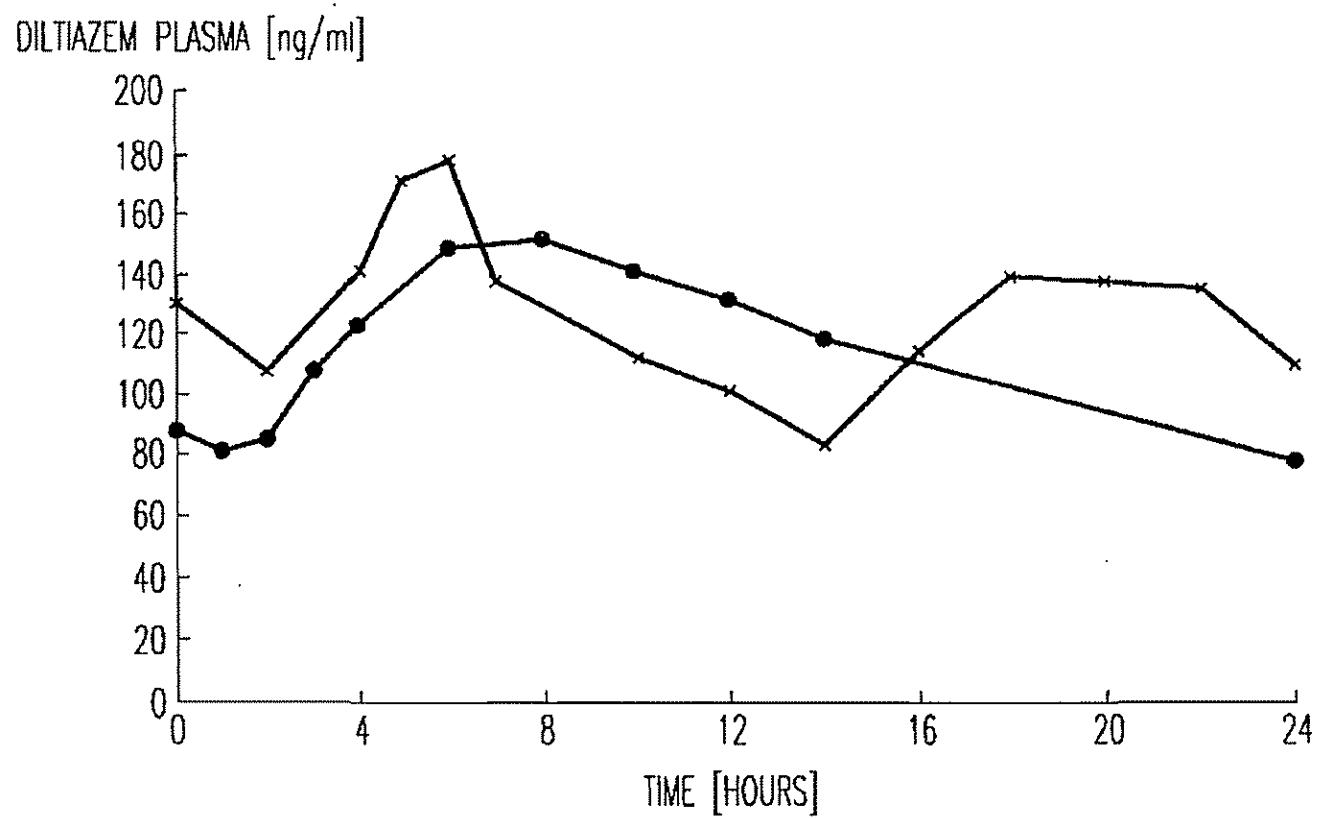


FIG. 1

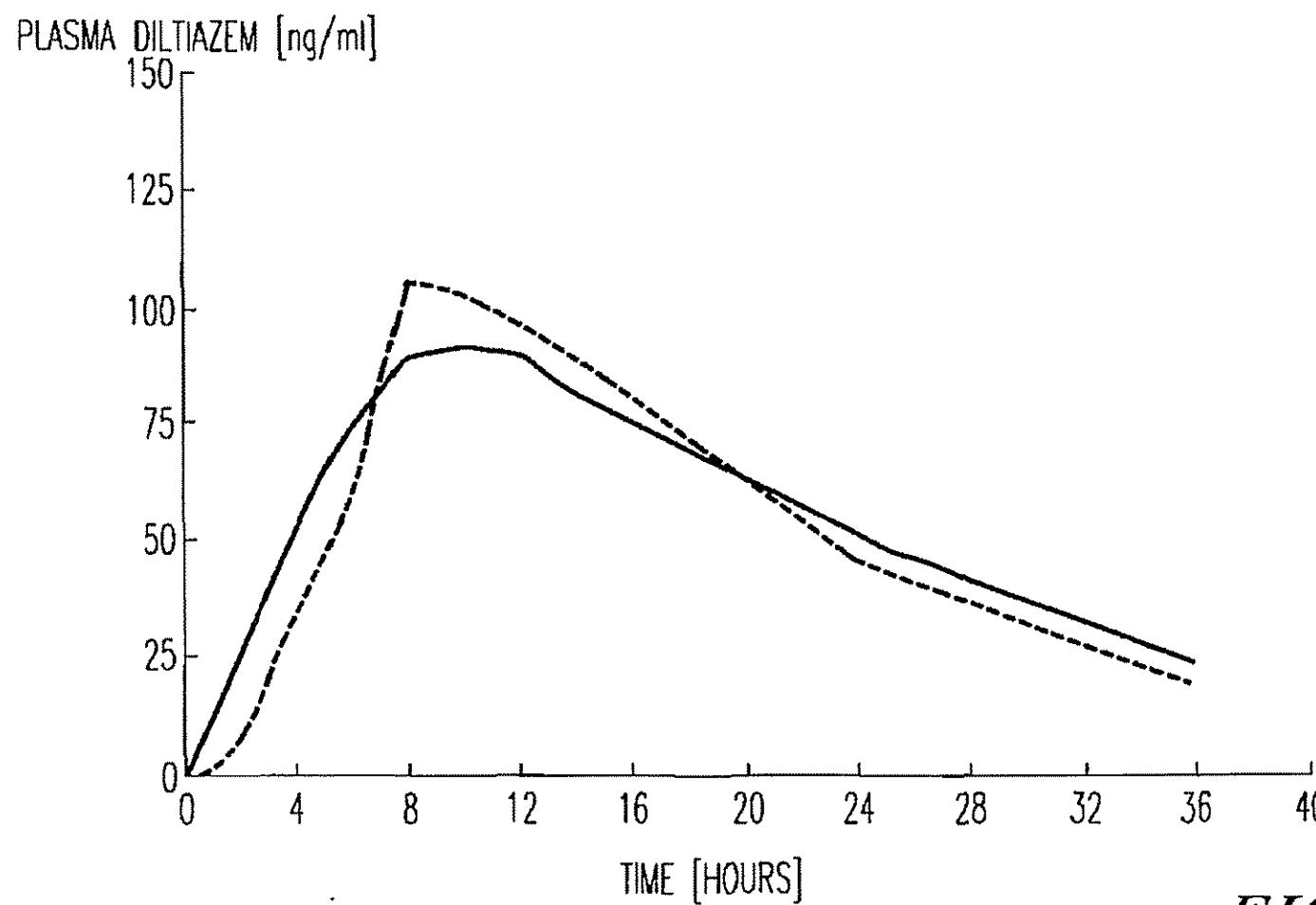


FIG. 2

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EXTENDED RELEASE FORM OF
DILTIAZEM

This application is a continuation of application Ser. No. 08/068,951, filed on May 28, 1993, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application Ser. No. 07/721,396 filed Jun. 26, 1991, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,288,505.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an extended release form of Diltiazem, a process for the manufacture thereof and pharmaceutical compositions containing the same.

2. Description of the Background

Diltiazem hydrochloride is used in medicine principally for its calcium channel blocking properties, and, therefore, finds application in the treatment of angina pectoris and hypertension; either alone or in combination with other medications.

Although the mechanism for calcium channel blocking is not completely understood, calcium ion entry is believed to be inhibited through select voltage, with the sensitive areas termed "slow channels", across cell membranes. By reducing intracellular calcium concentration in cardiac and vascular smooth muscle cells, coronary arteries, peripheral arteries and arterioles are dilated and heart rate may be reduced. Also, myocardial contractility may be decreased and atrioventricular nodal conduction may be slowed. The activity of diltiazem in human is directly related to its blood or plasma concentration.

For illnesses which require continuous and constant control, such as hypertension and angina pectoris, Diltiazem must be administered every 6 to 8 hours, as it has a very short half-life in blood of only about 3 to 4 hours. However, such frequent administration times render the treatment very annoying or even impossible to effect, particularly during the night. Further, after each administration of an immediate-release galenic form of Diltiazem, which generally is necessary four times per day, a succession of rapidly increasing and decreasing plasmatic Diltiazem concentrations are established. Thus, the organism being treated and the target organ, more particularly the heart, are alternatively subjected to overdoses and to underdoses of medicine.

In order to alleviate these drawbacks, a first galenic form of sustained-released of Diltiazem known under the trade name CARDIZEM SR® was developed and presented in the form of "erodible pellets", U.S. Pat. No. 4,721,619. Although this form affords a reduction in peak concentration and in the number of daily intakes from 4 to 2, it does not eliminate high Diltiazem blood concentration between successive medication intakes. Hence, the patient is still obliged to take the medication twice daily. The products as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,721,619 are prepared by a building up process which requires, as described therein, between 50 and 200 layers so as to obtain a core which, thereafter, requires between 20 and 40 layers of coating so as to obtain the membrane. Moreover, the solvent of the polymer solution used to make the membrane is constituted by organic solvents, such as isopropanol, methanol, acetone, and methylene chloride which are dangerous to use due to their flammability and toxicity. Such solvents are also environmentally hazardous. Particular care must be taken to avoid any traces of solvent in the final product because these solvents are toxic and are unsuitable in the product which is administered orally.

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Thus, a need continues to exist for a multiple unit extended-release diltiazem hydrochloride galenic form which need be administered only once daily, and from which blood Diltiazem concentrations are not effected by the concomitant intake of food, and, further, which can be made by a process not using organic solvents.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide galenic forms of Diltiazem with extended release of the active substance.

It is also an object of this invention to provide galenic forms of Diltiazem having excellent bioavailability while avoiding plasmatic concentration peaks.

The above objects and others which will become more apparent in view of the following disclosure are provided by an extended-release galenic form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of Diltiazem, which comprises beads containing the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of Diltiazem as an active ingredient and a wetting agent, said beads being coated with a microporous membrane comprising a water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer or copolymer, and a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates the effect of the present invention in gradually releasing Diltiazem in a relatively uniform manner over a period of about one day after the 8th once daily administration in comparison with the effect of a conventional product after the 8th day of administration twice daily.

FIG. 2 illustrates in the solid curve, the mean plasma levels obtained when the product of the present invention is taken without food. The dotted curve represents mean plasma levels obtained when the product is taken with food.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Diltiazem or (2S-cis)-3-(Acetoxy)-5-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-2,3-dihydro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1,5-benzothiophen-4(5H) has been known for more than 20 years. The synthesis thereof is described in German patent 1,805,714, corresponding to U.S. Pat. No. 3,562,257.

The present invention relates to novel galenic forms of Diltiazem being characterized by having an extended-release of the active substance. These galenic forms afford excellent bioavailability while avoiding plasmatic concentrations peaks, so that it is now possible to maintain diltiazem plasmatic concentrations in a desired, effective range while simplifying the administration of the medicine to only once daily.

According to the present invention, the Diltiazem extended release galenic forms are substantially characterized by the fact that they are constituted by beads containing a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of Diltiazem as an active substance, associated with at least a wetting agent, the beads being covered with a microporous membrane constituted by at least a water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer or copolymer such as a copolymer of acrylic acid ethyl ester and acrylic acid methyl ester, and a pharmacologically acceptable adjuvant.

In accordance with the present invention, any pharmaceutically acceptable salt of Diltiazem may be prepared in extended release form. For example, such salts may include the hydrochloride, sulfate or phosphate salts. However, they

may also include the acetate, citrate or lactate salts, for example. It is preferred however, that the hydrochloride salt be used.

In more detail, the microporous membrane whereof the Diltiazem containing microgranules are covered, is constituted by a mixture of a water-soluble and/or water-dispersible copolymer and including at least one adjuvant which may be plasticizing agents, pigments, fillers, wetting agent lubricants and antifoam agents.

The active substance containing beads are presented in form of spherules the diameter of which is between about 0.05 mm and 3 mm, preferably between about 0.1 mm and 2 mm.

Among the wetting agents associated with the Diltiazem or salt thereof in the beads, the following compounds may more particularly be exemplified:

saccharose, mannitol, sorbitol;

lecithins;

polyvinylpyrrolidones;

C_{12} to C_{20} fatty acid esters of saccharose, commercialized under the name of sucroesters (Gattefosse, France) or under the name of crodesters (Croda, U.K.);

xylose esters or xylytes;

polyoxyethylene glycerides;

esters of fatty acids and polyoxyethylene (Brij's, Renex and Eumulgines, Henkel, RFA);

sorbitan fatty acid esters (Span, Atlas, U.S.A.);

polyglycides-glycerides and polyglycides-alcohols esters (Gelucires, Gattefosse, France).

In addition to at least one of the above named wetting agents the beads may contain excipients or carriers, such as: Microcrystalline celluloses, such as Avicel products (FMC, U.S.A.); methylcelluloses, carboxymethylcelluloses, hydroxyethylcelluloses (Natrosol, Hercules, U.S.A.), hydroxypropyl celluloses (Klucel, Hercules, U.S.A.); and starches.

Among the water-soluble and/or dispersible film forming polymers or copolymers constituting the microporous membrane, may be mentioned particularly polycrylates and polymethacrylates of the Eudragit type, such as Eudragit E30D, L30D, RS-30 D of Röhm Pharma (RFA), ethylcelluloses, such as Ethocel of DOW, U.S.A. and such as AquaCoat of FMC, U.S.A., Hydroxypropyl cellulose and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose and their derivations.

These polymers or copolymers may be associated into the microporous membrane with at least one adjuvant as exemplified by the following:

plasticizing agents, such as triacetin, dibutylphthalate, dibutylsebacate, citric acid esters, polyethyleneglycols, polypropyleneglycols and polyvinylpyrrolidone;

pigments, such as iron oxides and titanium oxide;

fillers, such as lactose and sucrose;

wetting agents, such as surfactive agents of the Span and Tween types, namely partial esters of fatty acids (auric, palmitic, stearic and oleic acids) and anhydrides of hexitols derived from sorbitol possibly containing polyoxyethylene chains, preferably surfactive agents of the Tween type, namely Tween 80, as well as polyethyleneglycols;

lubricants, such as magnesium stearate and talc;

antifoaming agents, such as silicone oil.

In addition to the polymer or copolymer, the microporous membrane contains, preferably, talc and/or magnesium stearate as a lubricant, polyvinylpyrrolidone as a plasticizing

agent, titanium dioxide as a pigment, Tween 80 as an emulsifier, and silicone oil as an antifoaming agent.

Generally, the thickness of the microporous membrane is expressed by the percentage of the coating applied to the uncoated beads.

The weight of the microporous membrane may be 2 to 35%, preferably, 5 to 22%, of the weight of said microgranules. These beads may contain the Diltiazem salt in an amount of 20 to 95% by weight, preferably 30 to 85% by weight. The microporous membrane may contain 5 to 95% and, preferably, 30 to 90% of polymers, polymer mixture or copolymers.

The invention relates also to a medicine containing Diltiazem or salt thereof for extended release, the medicine being constituted by beads containing the Diltiazem or salt, such as the hydrochloride, and at least a wetting agent, coated with at least one polymer-based microporous membrane, the coated beads being contained in capsules, little bags or dosage dispensers.

The present invention relates also to a process for obtaining novel forms of a Diltiazem or salt thereof having extended-release in the gastro-intestinal tractus, said process entailing preparing beads and coating the same with a single microporous membrane.

The beads of the Diltiazem or salt thereof may be prepared using a conventional technique. A first technique consists in mixing the Diltiazem or salt thereof with the wetting agent(s) in a melted or finely divided form, or in solution, in the presence of a solvent, such as water, so as to obtain an extrudable paste or plastic mass. Said paste is thereafter extruded in an extruder and then rendered spherical. Several extruder types are usable, for example the extruder of ALEXANDER WERK (RFA) or the apparatus called X-truder of FUJI-PAUDAL (Japan). For obtaining microspheres or beads from the extruded product provided in the form of spaghetti, an apparatus called "spheronizer" (CALEVA Great-Britain) or MARUMERIZER (FUJI-PAUDAL Japan) type is used.

Another conventional technique for obtaining beads consists in spraying and/or dusting cores obtained through agglomeration of the Diltiazem or salt thereof, such as the chlorhydrate, contingently mixed to at least a wetting agent, with a dispersion or solution of at least one wetting agent, for example in a known pilling turbine or in a granulating apparatus, such as the CF granulator system of FREUND INDUSTRIAL CO. (Japan), or in a known planetary granulator such as the collette (Belgium) type.

The obtained beads are dried by any means, for example in an oven or by means of a gas in a fluidized bed.

Finally, said beads are calibrated to the necessary diameter by passage through appropriate screens.

A pasty or plastic mixture, appropriate to be granulated by means of anyone of the above described techniques, may contain the following weight proportions of the Diltiazem or salt thereof, wetting agents and carriers or excipients:

20 to 85%; Diltiazem hydrochloride

2 to 20% sucroesters WE 15 (wetting agent);

5 to 25% Avicel PH 101 (microcrystalline cellulose of FMC, U.S.A.);

2 to 10% Methocel E 5 (hydroxypropylmethylcellulose of DOW, U.S.A.);

1 to 15% polyvinylpyrrolidone and

5 to 40% distilled water.

Said microporous membrane may be applied onto said beads by pulverizing an aqueous solution or dispersion of at least one of the above-named polymers and at least one of the above-mentioned adjuvants onto said beads. This pul-

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verization may be carried out by spray-gunning or by pulverizing the above-named dispersion into a turbine or fluidized bed.

Generally, the present extended release form composition of Diltiazem salt is administered orally. The dosage amount is subject to the response of the individual patient, however, in general, from about 120 mg to about 480 mg per day of Diltiazem salt is administered per day per patient in total.

Additionally, the extended release form composition of the present invention may include other pharmaceutically active ingredients than the Diltiazem salt, provided that the other active ingredient is not pharmaceutically incompatible with the Diltiazem salt.

For example, other pharmaceutically active ingredients, such as β -adrenoceptor blocking agents or diuretics may be used in the present compositions. However, these are only example and are not intended to be limitative.

As examples of β -adrenoceptor blocking agents, drugs such as Propranolol, Atenolol, Labetalol, Prindolol or Sotalol may be used, for example.

As examples of diuretic agents, drugs such as Hydrochlorothiazide, Furosemide, Ethacrynic Acid or Chlorothiazide, for example.

Further, the additional associated drugs may be present in extended-release form also, if desired, however, they need not be.

The present invention will now be further illustrated by reference to certain examples which are provided solely for purposes of illustration and are not intended to be limitative.

According an illustrative embodiment of the present invention, said microporous membrane may be obtained, starting from an aqueous dispersion which contains by weight:

10 to 70 Eudragit E30D (polymer)	35
0.5 to 15% talc (lubricant)	
0.5 to 15% Titanium dioxide (lubricant)	
0.5 to 15% Magnesium stearate (lubricant)	
0.5 to 15% polyvinylpyrrolidone (plastifying agent)	
0.01 to 2% silicone oil (antifoaming agent);	
0.05 to 5% polysorbate 80 (wetting agent)	40
10 to 70% water (carrier)	

EXAMPLES

The present invention will now be further illustrated by reference to certain examples, which are provided solely for purposes of illustration and are not intended to be limitative. In particular, examples are provided for Diltiazem Hydrochloride extended release galenic forms, a process for preparing the same, therapeutic applications therefor and pharmacokinetic controls using the present galenic forms.

Example 1—beads manufacture

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Diltiazem hydrochloride	1120 g
Lactose	119 g
Microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel pH 101)	140 g
Povidone k 30	21 g

After introducing the powders into a planetary mixer and granulating same though the obtained plastic mass is extruded through a cylinder with 1 mm diameter holes (Alexanderwerk). The small cylinders are rounded, so as to obtain beads, by means of a spheronizer. After drying at 60° C. for 12 hours the beads are sifted and the fraction with size

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comprised between 0.7 mm and 1.4 mm are retained. 1,179 g of beads were obtained yield (84%).

Example 2

Diltiazem Hydrochloride	560 g
Crodesa F 160	59.5 g
Microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel pH 101)	70 g
Povidone k 30	10.5 g

The ingredients are introduced in a planetary mixer and dry mixed during approximately 15 minutes. There after 100 ml water USP is added and the mixing is pursued during 10 minutes more until a plastic mass is obtained. This mass is then extruded through a Fuji Paudal extruder equipped with a 1 mm screen so as to obtain "spaghetti". A spheronizer type caleva is used so as to transform the extruded product in beads. After drying during 12 hours, on trays, in an oven at 60° C. the beads are sieved so as to eliminate the ones with a size larger than 1.4 mm and with a size smaller than 0.7 mm. The amount of beads obtained with size comprised between 0.7 mm and 1.4 mm was 639.1 g (yield 91.3%).

Example 3

Beads prepared in Example 1 were coated in a STREA-1 (Aeromatic) fluidized bed using the "Top spraying" technic. 440 g of coating suspension of the following composition was applied on 500 g of beads. Thereafter the coated beads were dried at 50° C. during 16 hours.

Coating suspension composition:

Magnesium stearate	12.5 g
Titanium dioxide	5.0 g
Povidone k 30	5.0 g
Eudragit NE30D	620.0 g
Talc USP	17.5 g
water	338.0 g
Simethicone	1.0 g
Tween 80	0.8 g

"In vitro" dissolution were obtained using the apparatus #2 as described in the United States Pharmacopeia. The 900 ml dissolution medium consisted of a phosphate buffer pH 5.8 and the revolution speed 100 rpm.

elapsed time (h)	percent dissolved (%)
1	5
4	34
8	62
12	84

Example 4

The beads as in Example 2 were coated using a fluidized bed coater equipped with a "wurster" system. 8 kg of uncoated beads were introduced in an Aeromatic Aerocoater and 2.77 kg of the following coating suspension was applied at a rate of 30-35 g per minute. Thereafter the coated beads were dried during 15 hours at 45° C.

Coating suspension:

Magnesium stearate	0.636 kg
Talc	0.636 kg

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Titanium dioxide	0.0909 kg
Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose	0.200 kg
Polysorbate 80 NF	0.007 kg
Silicone emulsion	0.018 kg
Eudragit NE 30 D	12.4 kg
purified water	6.7 kg

Dissolution "in vitro"

The results were obtained using the same equipment as in Example 3. The dissolution medium was composed of 900 ml of water and the temperature was maintained of 37±0.5°C.

elapsed time [h]	percent dissolved (%)
2	9
4	33
6	54
8	82

Pharmacokinetical results

The new galenic form of Example 4 was the object of a pharmacokinetical study in comparison with a form in accordance to the prior art as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,721,619. (Cardizem SR®) therefore 6 healthy subject received successively in a random order 300 mg of each of the 2 products. The product of Example 4 was administered at a dose of 300 mg once daily while the product on the market was administered twice daily at a dose of 150 mg (300 mg daily total dose) during 7 days. At each of the eighth day, 11 samples of blood were withdrawn when product of Example 4 was administered and 15 blood samples were withdrawn after the Cardizem SR® administration. Diltiazem plasma levels were assayed using a specific high pressure liquid chromatographic method. FIG. 1 shows the results obtained: the continuous line represent the Diltiazem plasma levels obtained with the product of Example 4 and the broken line the Diltiazem plasma levels of Cardizem SR®.

FIG. 1

Pharmacokinetical parameters:			
	Units	Example 4	Cardizem SR ®
Area under the curve [0-24 h]	mg.h/ml	2782 ± 1037	2864 ± 1222
Maximal concentration	mg/ml	116.3 ± 54.1	192.7 ± 85.3
Time of maximum concentration	h	8.0 ± 1.8	5.2 ± 2.8
Fluctuation	%	85.7 ± 25.7	109.5 ± 25
Time during the concentration is above 75% of the maximum concentration	h	9.8 ± 2.3	6.7 ± 3.7

From these results the following conclusion can be drawn:

First, FIG. 1 shows that the Diltiazem plasma levels obtained after a once daily administration of one of the products of the present invention are comparable to the ones obtained after a twice daily administration of the product of the previous art.

Second, the bioavailability, expressed by the areas under the curve of the 2 products, is equivalent (no statistical detectable difference).

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Third, the maximal concentration and the fluctuations obtained after a once daily administration of the product of the present invention is lower than the one obtained with Cardizem SR® after a twice daily administration.

Fourth, the time during the concentration is above 75% of the maximum concentration is 46% longer after the once daily administration of the product of the present invention than with product of the previous art when given twice daily.

Food effect study

The product of Example 4 was given to 24 healthy volunteers and the bioavailability was measured after single oral dose of 300 mg given with and without food.

The clinical trial was conducted as an open, single dose, randomized, cross over study. Blood samples were obtained before and until 36 hours after the administration. The experiment was repeated in the same subjects with the other treatment at an interval of 7 days. The plasma concentration of Diltiazem was determined in all available samples using an HPLC method. Pharmacokinetics parameters were derived from the individual plasma concentration versus time profiles and statistically compared for treatment differences and assessment of bioequivalence. FIG. 2 curves shows the mean plasma levels obtained when the product is taken without food and the dotted curve the mean plasma levels obtained when the product is taken with food.

FIG. 2

Pharmacokinetics parameter - product of Example 4			
	Units	Fasting	Food
Area under the curve (total)	mg. h/ml	1988 ± 119	1925 ± 109
Mean residence time	h	21.3 ± 0.7	19.9 ± 0.9
K_{α}	h ⁻¹	0.283 ± 0.024	0.300 ± 0.027
Maximum concentration	mg/ml	100 ± 4.8	112 ± 5.9

No statistical difference was detectable. The product of Example 4 given with food is bioequivalent to the administration without food to within less than 20% regarding area under the curve, mean residence time and maximum concentration. The larger interval obtained for K_{α} was due to the higher variability of this parameter, the difference between the treatment means remaining small (6%).

From all the results it appears clearly that the product of the present invention can be administered once a day and that the plasma concentration variations are lower than the one obtained with the conventional product given twice a day.

Having described the present invention, it will now be apparent to one skilled in the art that many changes and modifications may be made to the above-described embodiments while remaining within the spirit and the scope of the present invention.

What is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent of the United States is:

- An extended-release galenical composition of one or more pharmaceutically-acceptable salts of Diltiazem which comprises beads containing an effective amount of one or more of said Diltiazem salts as the active ingredient, each bead containing one or more of the Diltiazem salts and an effective amount of a wetting agent in admixture with the one or more Diltiazem salts to maintain the solubility of the Diltiazem in each bead, ensuring that the solubility of the Diltiazem is unaffected by the pH of the gastrointestinal tract

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or other adverse conditions which the composition will meet therein, said beads being coated with a microporous membrane comprising at least a water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer or copolymer, and a water-, acid- and base-insoluble polymer and a pharmaceutically-acceptable adjuvant,

and wherein the wetting agent is selected from the group consisting of sugars, C_{12} - C_{20} fatty acid esters of sucrose or xylose, glycerides of sucrose, fatty acid esters of polyoxyethylene, ethers of fatty alcohols and polyoxyethylene, esters of sorbitan, esters of polyoxyethylene sorbitan, alcohol-polyglycide esters, glyceride-polyglycides, lecithins and a combination thereof.

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2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the wetting agent is a sugar.

3. The composition of claim 1, wherein the effective amount of the wetting agent is about 8% by weight of the composition.

4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the wetting agent is sucrose stearate, the water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer or copolymer is hydroxypropylmethyl-cellulose and the water, acid- and base- insoluble polymer is an acrylic polymer.

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